

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. T-930

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common The Retreat

2. Location

street & number off of Royal Oak Road ☐ not for publication

city, town Royal Oak ☐ vicinity of congressional district 2

state Maryland county Talbot

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Willard R. and Geraldine B. Holley

street & number 8409 Kellogg Ct. telephone no.:

city, town Lutherville state and zip code MD 21903

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Courthouse liber 556

street & number folio 443

city, town Easton state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

repository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

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Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Retreat is located on the north side of Royal Oak Road in Royal Oak, Talbot County, Maryland. The Retreat is at the end of a gravel road overlooking Oak Creek. This structure faces south with the principle gable oriented on an east/west axis.

This five bay, two-and-a-half story frame structure is sheathed in asbestos siding and roofed with asphalt shingles. The foundation is brick.

The south (main) elevation has a central four panel door with a half round light and a three light transom. The door is flanked by three light sidelights. A gable roof portico supported by square posts shelters the doorway. The door is flanked on either side by two two-over-two sash windows with wide surrounds and black, louvered shutters. The second floor is lit by five two-over-two sash windows with wide surrounds and black, louvered shutters. A cross gable breaks the roofline and is lit by one small two-over-two with wide surrounds and black, louvered shutters. This cross gable is flanked on either side by one gable roof dormer lit by two-over-two sash windows. An interior brick chimney stands at either end of the house's main body. A one-story, flemish bond brick, gable roof addition extends to the east. This structure is lit by four six-light over six-panel garage doors. A smaller scale, two-story, gable roof addition extends to the west of the house. This addition is lit on the first and second floor by two-over-two sash windows with wide surrounds and black, louvered shutters.

The west elevation is a gable end with a one-story, single bay, gable roof addition across the first floor lit by one two-over-two sash window on each side. The second floor is lit by one nine-over-three sash window with wide surrounds. A six-over-six sash window lights the upper half story. A one-story, gable roof addition extends to the north lit on the first floor by two two-over-two sash windows with wide surrounds and pierced by a central single-light over two-panel door. A shed roof, single bay projection extends from the second floor of this addition lit by one two-over-two sash window.

The north elevation has a central large, four-panel door which opens onto a small, brick patio. This door is sheltered by a small, gable roof portico supported by slender square posts with chamfered edges. This central bay is flanked on either side by a picture window. The eastern bay has a screened porch projection which rests on a brick foundation. The second

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☒ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Bernice Leonard writes about this property in Twig and Turf III. "Retreat" was purchased by E.T. and Eliza Benson from the heirs of Anthony Banning in 1863. A house exists in this location in the 1858 Dillworth map and the 1877 Atlas. A road leading to the property appears in the 1902 USGS map.

Following Eliza Banning's death in 1909, her daughter Clara received the family homestead and operated it as a summer boarding house while looking after her elderly father. The Retreat was capable of housing up to thirty guests at seven dollars per week. Clara Benson married Canadian Alfonso Boley in 1920 who lived with her at the Retreat until his death in 1939.

In 1941 the property passed to Frank W. and Ruth W. Frederickson who sold in two years later to Edwar O. and Trella Sudler of Washington, D.C. The Sudlers sold it to J. Ramsy Speer, Jr. in 1946. In 1953 Edwin C. Wadsworth and Edward H. Boyd bought the property as copartners in "Tidewater Farms." Later that year, Boyd gave up his interest in the property and it was transfered to the Wadsworth name alone. In 1955 George E. Wallace and wife and Joseph T. Wallace and wife acquired the Retreat. Each couple had a one half interest in the estate. From the Wallaces the Retreat passed to its current owners.

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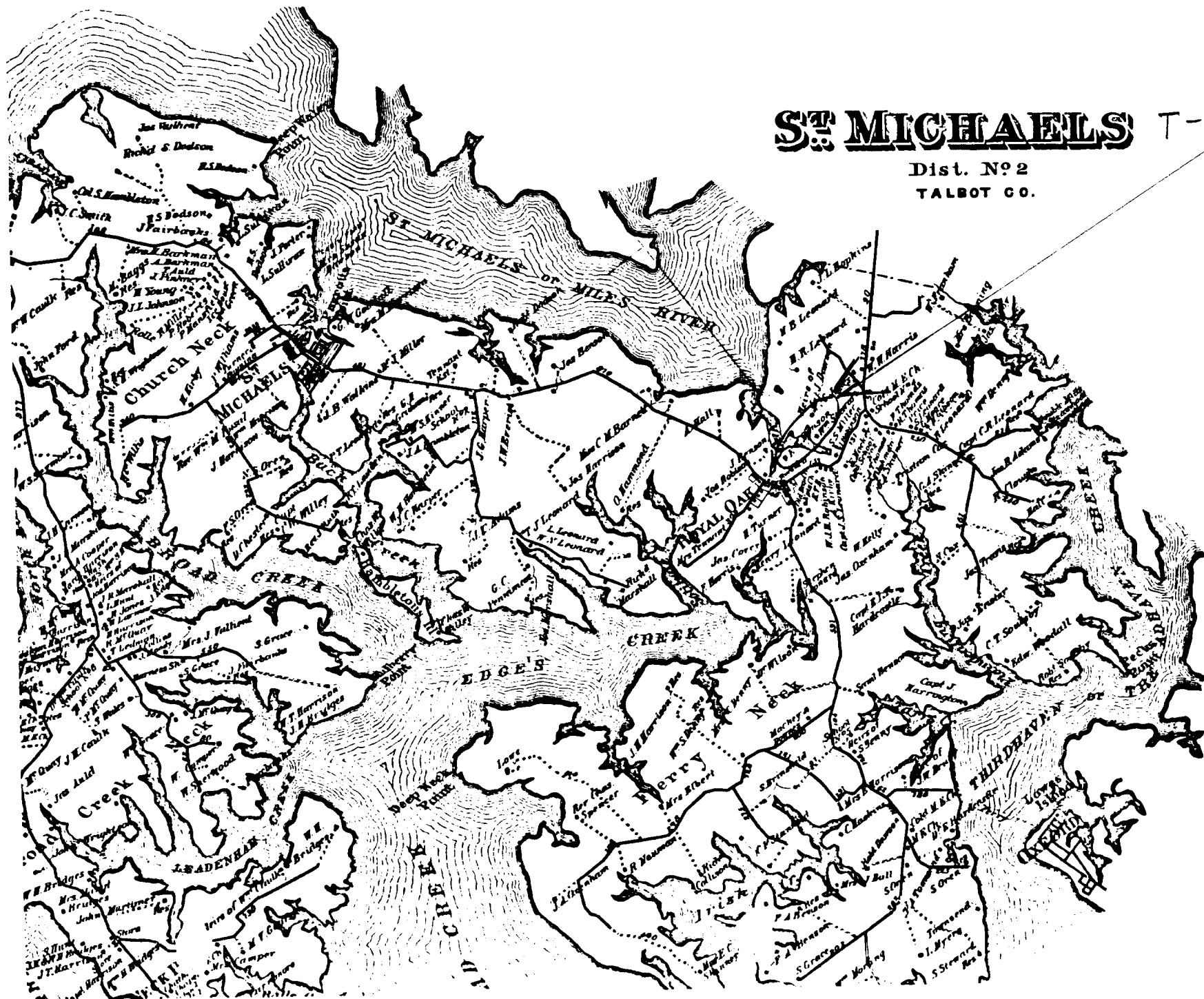
PS-2746

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The Retreat Description cont'd.

floor is lit by three two-over-two sash windows with wide surrounds. The central window of the second floor has a lower placement on this elevation than the other two. All windows here were finished with shutters at one time. Three gable roof dormers with two-over-two sash windows light the upper half story. A one-story, gable roof, flemish bond, brick addition extends to the east lit on the north side by one two-over-two sash window. A two-story addition projects to the west lit on the second floor by one six-over-six sash window with wide surrounds. The first floor is covered by a one-story, gable roof addition which projects to the north. The north and east sides of this addition is lit by two two-over-two sash windows with wide surrounds. One gable roof dormer lit by a six-over-six sash window with wide surrounds projects from the roof.

One small, gable roof, outbuilding sheathed in weatherboard and roofed with asphalt shingles stands on the property. This structure has a batten door and batten shuttered windows. A large bell hangs from its south side.

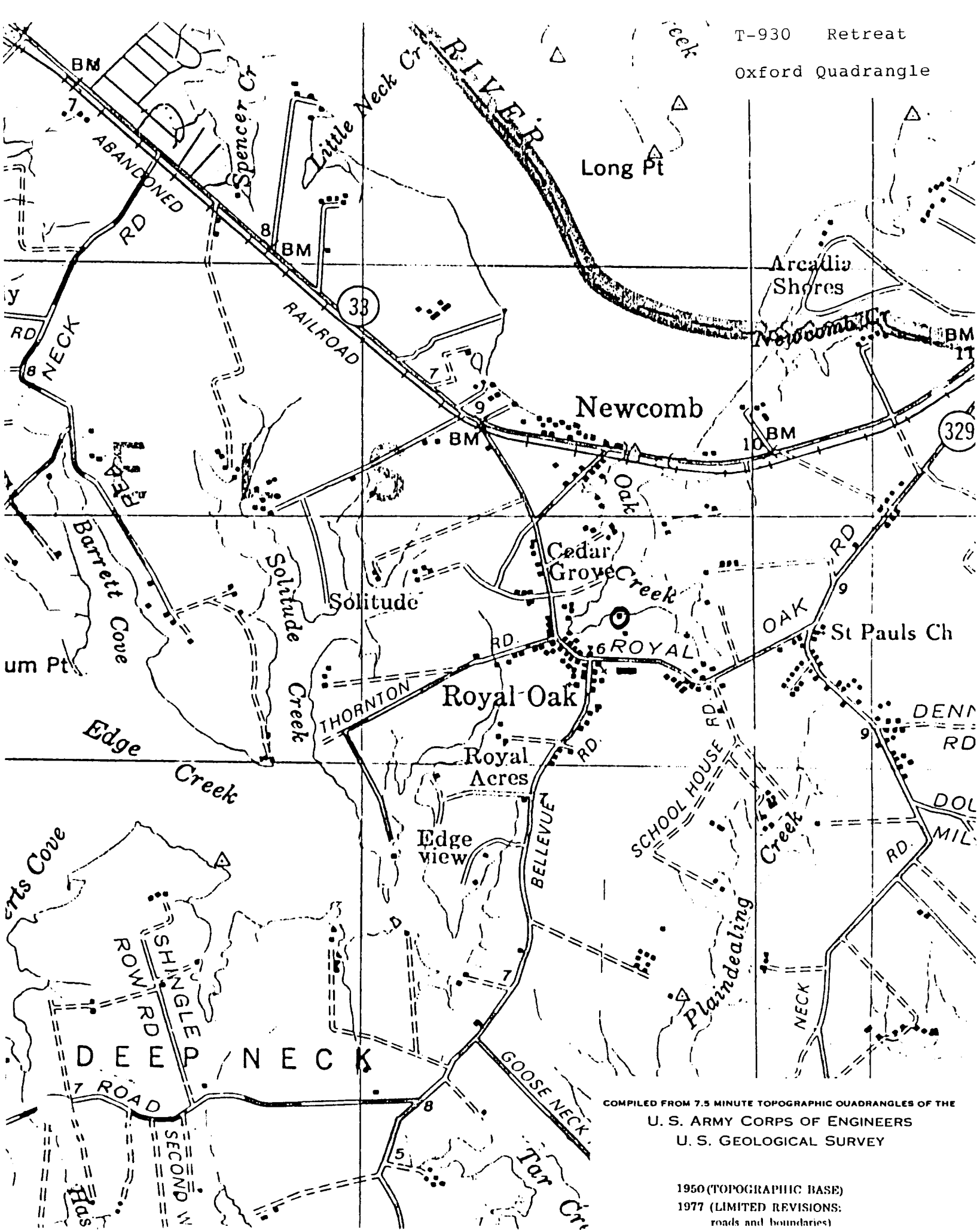


ST MICHAELS T-930

Dist. No 2

TALBOT CO.

Lake George, Oregon, 1871
The Retreat
George T. Benson, 1871



COMPILED FROM 7.5 MINUTE TOPOGRAPHIC QUADRANGLES OF THE
U. S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

1950 (TOPOGRAPHIC BASE)
1977 (LIMITED REVISIONS:
roads and boundaries)



RETREAT ROYAL OAK MD

7-930

RETREAT

NORTH ELEVATION

ROYAL OAK, MD

MIKE LUBY COLLECTION



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RETREAT

SW ELEVATION